

Natural History Museum. Her career began with an expedition to Colorado, where she assisted in a dinosaur excavation.

Her tenure at the Natural History Museum was marked by achievement after achievement. She set up the Camp Bigfoot program at the museum, a program which is still active to this very day. She also set up other programs such as the Western Heritage Expeditions.

Her mark on the community expands further than just her work at the Natural History Museum. Friends of hers, the Anderson Family, remember fondly the time she replanted their son's garden after rain had washed it away. In fact, a friend of Mary's recalled that she "believed firmly in all children and in the beauty of the earth."

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me today in honoring the life of Mary Elizabeth Flahive. She is a wonderful example to us all in her devotion to the earth and to her community.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010–2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—NICHOLAS CORTI

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and privilege to inform the Members of the United States House of Representatives that the students of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council, CYAC, from the Third District of Texas have completed a total of 500 community service hours, fulfilling and far-surpassing the requirements of their assigned CYAC in the Community service project.

This year 46 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard by joining CYAC. As the Third District's young ambassadors to Congress, these bright high school students met with me on a quarterly basis to discuss current events and public policy. These impressive young people recognize an important truth: the heart of public service is found when giving back to the community. CYAC students volunteered their time and talents with over 30 organizations including Adopt-A-Highway, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Teen Court, and the USO, to name a few. As one student shared, "CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the U.S. Armed Forces." I am beyond thrilled that CYAC has helped students unleash their full potential and chase their dreams.

President George H.W. Bush once said, "A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization."

With this statement as a benchmark, I am proud to congratulate the members of the

2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council for showing themselves to be outstanding young citizens of this nation. It is my privilege to submit summaries of their work to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to be preserved for posterity and antiquity. To these young public servants, thank you, and keep up the great work! I salute you!

A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

As an aspiring Service Academy cadet, I first joined Civil Air Patrol during the fall of my sophomore year. In the past few months, I have attained a high enough grade and rank that my role in the program has begun to change. Now, every Sunday, I head up to meetings early, and then spend 3 hours teaching cadets the art of drill, the science behind aerospace, and the gritty realities of emergency services. Beyond the basics of our classes, cadets learn discipline and attention to detail through drill. Giving them small amounts of authority as they progress slowly eases them into leadership roles, which builds confidence. As they advance through the program, we instill in them the character to take responsibility for the results of their actions, regardless of the results. In short, we make leaders out of schoolchildren. The experience is rewarding for me as well, because seeing a cadet progress is a strong testament to our work. In addition, training cadets is the best way to hone one's leadership and communication skills, which I believe I have improved through CAP.

—Nicholas Corti.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Slovak Catholic Federation in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

In 1911, the Slovak immigrant community in the United States was nearing the peak of its existence. Slovak Americans longed for religious communities of men and women who would evangelize and teach in the best traditions of the Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of their Catholic faith.

On February 11, 1911, the Slovak Catholic Federation was founded by the Reverend Jozef Murgaš, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church. Its establishment resulted from a meeting of bishops, priests, and lay people who wished to unify Slovak Catholics in the United States. The Zdrúženie Slovenských Katolíkov, as it is known in the Slovak language, was incorporated in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, on December 30, 1912.

The story of the Slovak Catholic Federation can be seen in its list of accomplishments, and in the religious activities of its member societies and local chapters. Projects of the federation support various Catholic organizations and religious communities, and promote activities for young people. For most of its existence, the federation raised money to support Slovak refugees who were displaced by war and communist oppression, assisted religious

communities and institutions seeking to rebuild after 70 years of communism, and worked to help establish the Pontifical College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome, Italy, where priests from Slovakia can advance their theological studies.

Over the last 100 years, the work of the federation has flourished. Local chapters were established in many Slovak parishes in northeastern Pennsylvania and across the country, with districts or regions coordinating the federation's work at the local level.

Mr. Speaker, the Slovak Catholic Federation has performed numerous works of charity and religious outreach over 10 decades. It has positively affected countless Slovak Catholics both here and abroad. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the Slovak Catholic Federation on the 100th anniversary of its founding, and I ask them to join me in wishing them many years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT FOR ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS TO RELEASE NEW YORK TIMES JOURNALISTS HELD CAPTIVE IN LIBYA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Turkish government for its involvement in the successful negotiations with Libyan government officials to release New York Times journalists: Lynsey Addario, Stephen Farrell, Tyler Hicks, and Anthony Shadid. The journalists were released Monday after successful diplomatic negotiations by the Turkish and British governments.

According to reports from Libyan authorities, the journalists were detained on March 15, before the air strikes began. The group entered the eastern, rebel-controlled region of Libya without visas, a common practice by journalists reporting on the crisis in Libya. The New York Times reported that the journalists were held captive by loyalist forces of Col. Qadhafi. Early reports indicated that the journalists' whereabouts were unknown. As the situation in Libya intensified, U.S. officials requested Turkish involvement to secure their release. Diplomatic negotiations progressed as the U.S. and coalition forces proceeded with the air strikes over Libya. Turkish ambassador Sahinkaya worked tirelessly to achieve a safe release. It was not until that Monday that the Qadhafi loyalists released the journalists to the Turkish diplomats.

The journalists were taken to safety at the nearby Turkish embassy located in Libya's capital, Tripoli, where they contacted their families and the New York Times to share the news of their release. After a 3½ hour drive in an armored car, the journalists safely arrived in Tunisia and prepared for their journey home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Turkish government for its tremendous diplomatic efforts to negotiate with the Qadhafi loyalists for the release of the New York Times journalists.